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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS

STEINBUCHEL et al.

SERIAL NO.

09/750,986

FILED

28 December 2000

FOR

SYNTHETIC ENZYMES FOR THE PRODUCTION OF CONIFERYL ALCOHOL,

CONIFERYLALDEHYDE, FERULIC ACID, VANILLIN AND VANILLIC ACID AND

THEIR USE

ART UNIT

1652

EXAMINER

Delia Ramirez

1 June 2004

Hon. Commissioner of Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

SIR:

Prior to consideration of the application on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as indicated below.

CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

If entry and consideration of the amendments above requires an extension of time, Applicants respectfully request that this be considered a petition therefor. The Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee(s) due in this connection to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

ADDITIONAL FEE

Please charge any insufficiency of fees, or credit any excess, to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.